

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/750,109

Applicant(s)

LAWRENCE ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Susan F. Rayyan

2167

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37.CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/4/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,7-10,14-19,21-22,26-30, 34 now renumbered as claims 1-21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                     |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian Hoffman, Registration Number 39,713 on May 31, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

### **CLAIMS**

In claim 22,

line 1 after "computer-readable" inserted --storage--

***Reasons For Allowance***

2. Claims 1-3,7-10,14-19,21-22,26-30,34 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claim 1, prior art of record does not teach a method comprising :receiving a first result set comprising a first plurality of article identifiers arranged in a first sort order, receiving a second result set comprising a second plurality of article identifiers in a second sort order and specifically comparing the second sort order to the first sort order, sorting the second plurality of article identifiers in the second sort order into a third sort order based at least in part on the comparison between the second sort order and the first sort order and creating a third result set based at least in part on the first and second plurality of identifiers and the third sort order and out putting the third result set.

Regarding independent claim 21, prior art of record does not teach a method comprising: obtaining a first result set comprising a first plurality of article identifiers arranged in a first sort order, obtaining a second result set comprising a second plurality of article identifiers in a second sort order and specifically comparing the second sort order to the first sort order, sorting the second plurality of article identifiers in the second sort order into a third sort order based at least in part on the comparison between the second sort order and the first sort order and creating a third result set based at least

in part on the first and second plurality of identifiers and the third sort order and out putting the third result set.

Regarding independent claim 22, prior art of record does not teach a computer-readable medium on which is encoded program code comprising code for receiving a first result set comprising a first plurality of article identifiers arranged in a first sort order, receiving a second result set comprising a second plurality of article identifiers in a second sort order and specifically comparing the second sort order to the first sort order, sorting the second plurality of article identifiers in the second sort order into a third sort order based at least in part on the comparison between the second sort order and the first sort order and creating a third result set based at least in part on the first and second plurality of identifiers and the third sort order and out putting the third result set.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


### Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan F. Rayyan whose telephone number is 571-272-1675. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
SR  
5/31/2007

  
JOHN COTTINGHAM  
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